

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06688 310901Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CA-01 /016 W
-----022157 310919Z /10
P 310715Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2603

UNCLAS SEOUL 6688

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SEDU, BBAK, KS
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO UNIVERSITY BROKER

REF: STATE 190374

1. EMBASSY REPLIED TO SENATOR GARN'S JUNE 23 LETTER ON JULY 20. DELAY WAS DUE TO DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING MR. PARK CHANG WON AND GETTING DOCUMENTATION FROM HIM. COPY OF REPLY WITH ENCLOSURES ALSO SENT TO UTAH STATE.

2. SUMMARY OF REPLY: MR. PARK CLAIMS HE HAS RECEIVED NEITHER COMMISSION NOR REMUNERATION FROM EITHER THE STUDENTS HE INTRODUCED TO THE INDEPENDENT HOME STUDY PROGRAM OR FROM THE UNIVERSITY. HIS LEARNING ADVISEMENT CENTER IS AN AFFILIATE OF MI RO ENTERPRISES WHOSE BUSINESS LICENSE SAYS THE FIRM IS AN IMPORT OFFER AGENT AND IS CLASSIFIED AS A "SERVICE" INDUSTRY. MR. PARK HAS EXPLAINED THAT, FOLLOWING A LOCAL RADIO PROGRAM WHICH DESCRIBED HIS BEING ENROLLED IN CERTAIN U.S. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES (NOT RELATED TO UTAH STATE), HE RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM KOREAN STUDENTS. AFTER MAKING A DETAILED STUDY OF U.S. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BROCHURES, HE CONCLUDED THAT UTAH STATE PROVIDED AN OUTSTANDING CURRICULUM FOR KOREANS IN TERMS OF THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS, AND HE CLAIMS THAT IS WHY HE INTRODUCED UTAH STATE TO KOREAN NATIONALS. MR. PARK STATES THAT IF UTAH STATE DOES NOT WANT TO
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CONSIDER ENROLLING KOREAN CANDIDATES, HE WILL CCEASE INTRODUCING IT TO KOREAN STUDENTS. HE ASKS, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE UNIVERSITY DOES NOT INTEND TO CONSIDER THESE APPLICATIONS, THAT IT MAKE PROMPT REFUNDS OF APPLICATION AND TUITION FEES.

3. COMMENT: THE VERACITY OF MR. PARK'S CLAIMS IS HARD TO

DETERMINE. EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF IDENTIFYING OR CONTACTING ANY OF STUDENT APPLICANTS, AND SO HAS ONLY MR. PARK'S STORY. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY HAS NO BASIS FOR CHALLENGING HIS EXPLANATION. COPY OF EMBASSY'S JULY 20 LETTER TO SENATOR GARN BEING POUCHED EA/K.

4. SINCE TYPING THE ABOVE, POST HAS LEARNED THAT MR. PARK'S FIRM, THE LEARNING ADVISEMENT CENTER, CLAIMS TO BE ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN FOR KOREAN STUDENTS DESIRING COLLEGE CREDIT THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND "OVER 60" AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. ADVERTISEMENTS CLAIM THAT FOR A SMALL FEE, THE FIRM WILL ASSIST KOREAN STUDENTS IN MAKING APPLICATION AND APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO VARIOUS U.S. HOME STUDY PROGRAMS. POST WILL INVESTIGATE FURTHER AND FORWARD ITS FINDING TO SEN. GARN'S OFFICE AND EA/K.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL06688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-1087
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978073/aaaaacdv.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 50958a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 190374
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1914512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO UNIVERSITY BROKER
TAGS: OEXC, SEDU, BBAK, KS, (PARK CHANG WON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50958a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014